

B R I E F

Submitted to

THE MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE ENQUIRY

by

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO

January, 1964



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THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO  
64 PRINCE ARTHUR AVENUE, TORONTO 5, ONTARIO

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

December 18th, 1963.

Dr. J. Gerald Hagey, Chairman,  
Medical Services Insurance Enquiry,  
481 University Avenue,  
Toronto 2, Ontario.

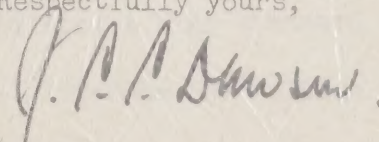
Dear Doctor Hagey:

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is a statutory body whose jurisdiction under the Medical Act of Ontario encompasses medical education, the licensing of qualified medical practitioners and the disciplining of those whom it has registered. Since the provision of medical services insurance did not appear to come within its purview the College had not considered that it had any information to present that would be of benefit to the public and of interest to the Medical Services Insurance Enquiry. However, after learning that you have received requests that the term "Physician" insofar as Bill 163 is concerned, should not be restricted to legally qualified medical practitioners, the College felt that in the interest of the health of the public it was imperative that it should avail itself of the privilege of presenting to you its views on this matter.

In the accompanying brief the College deals with the measures taken to assure that those entering the medical profession have had an education and training of high quality; it also deals with the penalties members of the medical profession are liable to incur if they fall below the traditional standard of professional conduct.

The medical profession, long known to the public as physicians, are jealous of this honoured term, and the College respectfully submits that it would not be in the public interest for its use to be extended to persons with lesser qualifications who may have a limited licence to practise in the healing arts.

Respectfully yours,

  
J. C. C. Dawson, M.D.,  
Registrar-Treasurer.







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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. C. C. Dawson", is written over a horizontal line.

J. C. C. Dawson, M.D.,  
Registrar-Treasurer.





B R I E F  
of the  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO  
TO  
THE MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE ENQUIRY  
ON BILL 163  
AN ACT RESPECTING MEDICAL SERVICES INSURANCE

1. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is the corporate body responsible for the administration of the Medical Act R.S.O. 1960, Chapter 234 as amended by the Medical Amendment Act 1962-63, which is an Act for the purpose of controlling the practice of medicine, surgery and midwifery. The College was established by Statute in 1866 for the purpose of identifying to the public by licence those who are qualified to provide medical, surgical and obstetrical services: in the terms of the Medical Act those so licensed are referred to as Members of the College and are known to the public by the terms "Doctor", "Physician" and "Surgeon"; designations denied by statute to others licensed to practice in the healing arts. The restriction on the use of the title "Doctor" and "Surgeon" does not apply to those admitted to practise dentistry or dental surgery under the Dentistry Act.

2. For the purpose of maintaining a high standard of education and training for those whom it licenses the College has been





given authority under the Medical Act to make regulations respecting the educational qualifications of candidates applying for student registration; it prescribes the curriculum of studies which shall be taught by medical schools in Ontario; it provides for the licensing examination to be passed by the candidates and the period of postgraduate hospital training they must complete; and it provides for a system of classification of specialists.

3. To obtain student registration with the College the candidate must have passed Ontario Grade XIII examinations in nine subjects as required by the College, and have completed two years of study in a Faculty of Arts or Science, or in a pre-medical course in any faculty of an approved university. Equivalent matriculation standing obtained outside Ontario may be accepted in lieu of the Grade XIII certificate of Ontario.

4. Upon completing the four-year medical course in an approved medical school or faculty of medicine whose curriculum of studies meets the minimum requirements set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario the graduate must perform a satisfactory year of internship in a hospital approved for this purpose.

5. The College no longer conducts its own licensing examinations but instead requires as a further test of his knowledge and fitness to practise medicine that the candidate pass the examinations conducted by the Medical Council of Canada in the following subjects: medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, and public health and preventive medicine.





6. In order to assure the public that those claiming to be specialists in any branch of medicine, surgery, or midwifery, possess suitable training and qualifications, the College requires that those using specialty designations be certificated by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. To obtain such a qualification the Royal College requires the candidate to take intensive post-graduate training for a period of at least four years in a hospital department approved by it; those aspiring to the Fellowship qualification must take further training before being admitted to the rigorous examinations conducted by the Royal College. The Fellowships of the Royal College have international recognition as evidenced by the large number of graduates of foreign medical schools trying the examinations.

7. In so far as the quality of medical education in Canada is concerned, the medical schools are inspected periodically by the Association of American Medical Colleges in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Medical Colleges. The approved medical schools in the United States are inspected by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

8. The College also accepts the curriculum of studies taught by medical schools in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Republic of Ireland. It will grant registration to those so qualified after they have complied with its internship requirements and passed the examinations of the Medical Council of Canada.





9. Foreign medical school degrees are accepted for registration only if the school is recognized by the World Health organization, and its entrance requirements, curriculum of studies and quality of training meet the standards set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. To complete the assessment of the foreign graduate's fitness to be licensed in Ontario he must pass a screening test, take two years of interne training in Ontario and pass examinations in English and the Basic Science subjects before the College will grant him an Enabling Certificate to write the Medical Council of Canada examinations.

10. The medical profession by virtue of the authority granted the College by the Medical Act is responsible for the disciplining of its members. From the time of Hippocrates there has existed and been developed by tradition over the centuries a code of professional conduct that exists to the knowledge of all members of the profession quite apart from the general laws of the land which govern the conduct of practitioners as citizens, and quite apart from any written regulations or Code of Ethics that may be drawn up for the guidance of members of the profession. It is the responsibility of the Council of the College to maintain the traditional standards of professional conduct and for the protection of the public to judge whether an offence has been committed that amounts to misconduct in a professional respect or conduct unbecoming a medical practitioner. The penalties it may impose include erasure from the Register, suspension of registration, or reprimand, and are related to the gravity of the offence of which the member has been found guilty.





11. In addition to the disciplining of its own members it is left to the College to prosecute unregistered persons practising medicine. In 1963 in addition to two prosecutions, warnings were given to twenty-five persons licensed under other statutes who were using the title "Doctor" or "Physician" in a manner which would lead the public to believe that they were licensed to practise medicine, surgery or midwifery.

12. In its present form Bill 163 provides that the insured services are to be rendered by, or under the direction of a physician, and that the term "Physician" means a medical practitioner registered as such under the Medical Act or under comparable legislation of any jurisdiction outside Ontario. The College has been informed that the representatives of certain groups who are licensed by statute to practise the healing arts in a limited manner, have made representations to the Medical Services Insurance Enquiry that, for the purpose of Bill 163, "Physician" be defined as one licensed by statute to practise in any branch of the healing arts. This would be for the purpose of providing benefits to an insured person for treatment services rendered by a person who was not a duly qualified medical practitioner.

13. While it does not come within the purview of the College to pronounce on the provision of insured services by those whose rights and privileges to practise are limited by statutory restrictions, it must record its objection in the public interest to any interpretation of the term "Physician" which would include other than legally qualified medical practitioners. As a result of long usage the public has





become accustomed to associate the term "Physician" exclusively with members of the medical profession and any departure from this can only result in misleading or confusing members of the public when seeking the services of a medical practitioner.

14.           The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario strongly advocates that no one should be represented to the public as a "Physician" who has not fulfilled the lengthy and rigorous education and training required for registration under the Medical Act as set out above.









